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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SEVEN BALTIMORE MEN INDICTED ON  
DRUG CONSPIRACY AND FIREARMS CHARGES**

**Baltimore, Maryland** - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced that a federal grand jury has indicted Shawn Henry, age 27, London King, age 24, Tyrell Fields, age 34, Ryan Ayers, age 24, Corey Grant, age 26, Dante Faulker, age 25, and Charles Laster, age 24, all of Baltimore, Maryland, for crimes arising from their participation in a drug conspiracy and a series of related shootings and murders.

The 29 count indictment unsealed on June 29 charges that from 1996 through June 2004 the defendants operated a drug distribution network that was responsible for selling large quantities of heroin, cocaine and crack cocaine in the 2000 block of E. North Avenue and the 1800 block of N. Chester and Castle Streets in East Baltimore. The indictment further alleges that the defendants committed acts of violence against members of rival drug conspiracies to maintain their reputation in the community, preserve their own territory, and to defend and maintain the loyalty of members of their own organization. The focal point of the indictment is a series of shootings and murders committed by the defendants from November 2000 through May 28, 2001 as part of an ongoing

dispute with a rival drug organizations known as the Project Boys. That feud ultimately resulted in the murder of 2 gang members and girlfriend, and 2 other drug dealers as well as 22 non-fatal shootings. Several Project Boys members have been previously convicted on federal drug conspiracy and related charges in a separate criminal case.

All seven defendants are charged with conspiracy to distribute narcotics and face a minimum mandatory sentence of 10 years in prison and a maximum penalty of life in prison. All of the defendants are also charged with conspiracy to possess firearms in furtherance of a drug crime or a crime of violence. The maximum penalty for this offense is 20 years in prison. Several of the defendants are charged separately with possession with intent to distribute controlled substances which carries a maximum sentence of 20 years. Several of the defendants are also charged separately with possession and use of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime and face a maximum penalty of life. Two defendants are charged with car jacking which carries a maximum sentence of 25 years in prison. Several defendants are charged with being felons in possession of firearms which carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison.

An indictment is not a finding of guilt. An individual charged by indictment is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at some later criminal proceedings.

The criminal charges in this indictment are the result of a joint investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration; the Baltimore City Police Department, the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office and the United States Attorney's Office. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys John F. Purcell and Jonathan M. Mastrangelo.